

April 19, 2007

**Via Hand Delivery**

The Honorable Charles L. A. Terreni  
Chief Clerk and Administrator  
The Public Service Commission of S.C.  
P. O. Drawer 11649  
Columbia, S.C. 29211

COPY  
D. Duke  
SA  
4-20-07

RECEIVED  
2007 APR 19 PM 4:15  
COMMUNICATIONS

RE: **Docket No. 2006-37-C**/Petition of the Office of Regulatory Staff for a Rule-Making Proceeding to Examine the Requirements and Standards to Be Used by the Commission When Evaluating Applications for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") Status and When Making Annual Certification of ETC Compliance to the Federal Communications Commission

Dear Mr. Terreni:

Enclosed for filing are an original and one copy of Verizon South Inc.'s ("Verizon") Comments in response to The Public Service Commission of South Carolina's ("PSC") Order No. 2007-193 in the above referenced docket.

By copy of this letter, I am serving all parties of record with a copy of the Comments as indicated on the attached Certificate of Service.

If you should have any questions concerning this matter please contact my office.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

  
Steve W. Hamm

Enclosures

cc: All Parties of Record

**BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA**

**DOCKET NO. 2006-37-C**

RECEIVED  
2007 APR 13 PM 4:10  
SC PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION

**IN RE:**

<b>Petition of the Office of Regulatory Staff for</b>	)	
<b>a Rule-Making Proceeding to Examine the</b>	)	<b>BRIEF OF VERIZON SOUTH INC.</b>
<b>Requirements and Standards to Be Used by</b>	)	
<b>the Commission When Evaluating Applications</b>	)	
<b>for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC)</b>	)	
<b>Status and When Making Annual Certification</b>	)	
<b>of ETC Compliance to the Federal</b>	)	
<b>Communications Commission</b>	)	

**VERIZON'S BRIEF CONCERNING USE OF FCC'S ETC GUIDELINES**

In its March 27, 2007 Order in this docket, the Commission requested briefs concerning whether it should consider the Federal Communication Commission's May 25, 2005 ETC guidelines when reviewing Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") applications that are currently pending or that are filed during the pendency of the Commission's consideration of state ETC regulations. Verizon South Inc. ("Verizon") respectfully opposes the use of the FCC's guidelines on an interim basis.

In its previous comments concerning the proposed state ETC guidelines, Verizon proposed that the Commission adopt a presumption that there should be only one ETC in a rural study area and that presumptive limits also be adopted for non-rural study areas. Verizon proposed these presumptive limits to avoid excessive demands on the universal service fund, which is rapidly growing, having more than doubled between 1999 and 2006. The FCC's ETC guidelines do not adopt presumptive limits on the number of ETC carriers. If the Commission begins considering, and possibly approving, ETC applications now, it may effectively decide this

issue before final state rules have been adopted. Verizon therefore requests that the Commission complete the rulemaking process before considering additional ETC applications.

Respectfully submitted on April 19, 2007.

By: 

Steven W. Hamm  
C. Jo Anne Wessinger Hill  
Richardson, Plowden, Carpenter & Robinson, P.A.  
1900 Barnwell Street  
Columbia, SC 29202  
Tel: (803) 771-4400

Dulaney L. O'Roark III  
Verizon South Inc.  
6 Concourse Parkway, Ste. 600  
Atlanta, Georgia 30328  
Phone: (770) 284-5498  
Email: [de.oroark@verizon.com](mailto:de.oroark@verizon.com)

Attorney for Verizon South Inc.

**BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA**

**DOCKET NO. 2006-37-C**

RECORDED  
2007 APR 19 PM 4:10  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION

**IN RE:**

Petition of the ORS for a Rule-Making Proceeding )  
to Examine the Requirements and Standards )  
to Be Used by the Commission When Evaluating )  
Applications for ETC Status and When Making )  
Annual Certification of ETC Compliance to )  
the Federal Communications Commission )

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that I have caused to be served this day, April 19, 2007, one (1) copy of Verizon's BRIEF to PSC's Order No. 2007-193 in the above referenced docket by placing a copy of same in the care and custody of the United States Postal Service, first class postage prepaid to the following Party of Record:

Ms. Nanette S. Edwards, Esquire  
Office of Regulatory Staff  
Post Office Box 11263  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Joseph Melchers  
Chief Counsel  
S.C. Public Service Commission  
Post Office Box 11649  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211  
(PSC Staff)

William E. DuRant, Jr., Esquire  
Schwartz, McLeod, DuRant & Jordan  
10 Law Range  
Sumter, SC 29150  
(Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.)

David A. LaFuria, Esquire  
Lukas, Nace, Gutierrez & Sachs, Chartered  
1650 Tysons Boulevard  
Suite 1500  
McLean, VA 22102  
(Hargray Wireless, LLC)

William W. Jones, Jr.  
Jones Scheider & Patterson, P. A.  
18 Pope Avenue  
P. O. Drawer 7049  
Hilton Head, SC 29938  
(Hargray Wireless, LLC)

Scott Elliott, Esquire  
Elliott & Elliott, P. A.  
721 Olive Street  
Columbia, SC 29205  
(United Telephone Company of the  
Carolinas and Embarq Comm., Inc.)

Edward Phillips, Attorney  
Jack H. Derrick, Senior Attorney  
14111 Capital Boulevard  
Wake Forest, NC 27587-5900  
(United Telephone Company of the  
Carolinas and Embarq Comm., Inc.)

Gene V. Coker, Esquire  
1230 Peachtree Street, NE  
Fourth Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309  
(AT&T)

Burnet R. Maybank, III, Esquire  
Nexsen Pruet  
1441 Main Street  
Suite 1500  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(Alltel)

M. John Bowen, Jr., Esquire  
McNair Law Firm, P.A.  
Bank of America Tower  
1301 Gervais Street, 17th Floor  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(SCTC)

J. Jeffrey Pascoe  
Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice  
550 South Main Street, Suite 400  
Greenville, South Carolina 29601  
(Sprint Nextel)

Amber R. Landsman

April 19, 2007  
Columbia, South Carolina